



Newsletter September 2021

Upcoming Events

- In the upcoming winter term 2021/2022, the network organises a lecture series titled **Shaping Asia: Heritage**. The invited speakers are:
 - **Dr. Felix Girke** (Universität Konstanz) on **5. November 2021**.
 - **Prof. Dr. Christoph Brumann** (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle) on the **2. December 2021**.
 - **Prof. Dr. Christiane Brosius** (Universität Heidelberg) on the **21. January 2022**.
 - **Dr. Çiçek Ilengiz** (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen) on the **27. January 2022**.
 - **Dr. Zarina Adambussinova** (American University of Central Asia in Bishkek) on the **3. February 2022**.

- Within the colloquium series **Understanding Asia: Transnational Care** four scholars will deliver talks.
 - **Dr. Victoria Kumala Satki** (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen) on **27. October 2021**.
 - **Prof. Dr. Judith Schlehe** (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg) on **24. November 2021**.
 - **Prof. Dr. Bo Kyeong Seo** (Yonsei University, South Korea) on **09. December 2021**.
 - **Dr. Megha Amrith** (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany) on **19. January 2022**.

For the programme and registration, please consult their [website](#).

- The conference **Reconfiguring Labour and Welfare in Emerging Economies of the Global South** will be held between the 7th and 8th of December 2021.

The convenors are **Prof. Dr. Minh Nguyen, Dr. Jake Lin, Ngoc Minh Luong,** and **Yueran Tian**—all at Bielefeld University.

For the programme and registration, please consult their [website](#).

Projects

- The project **Institutional Responses to Migrant Worker Rights in Indonesia** (2021 – 2024), led by **Dr. Wayne Palmer** (Bielefeld University), is now linked to the Shaping Asia Network as an associated project.

The project examines why institutions in Indonesia deny migrant workers access to labour and employment rights despite ratifying the international convention that protects them. Indonesia is a destination and transit country for a wide range of migrant workers, including foreign professionals and spouses. In recent years, Indonesia's fishing industry, has also been the subject of inquiries about trafficking of foreign migrants for forced labour. This project compares the systemic logic for depriving migrant fishers and other migrant workers of their legal rights in disparate areas of the country, providing important lessons for policymakers and advocates to improve rights protection as part of the global commitment to sustainable development.

Announcements

- Convenors Prof. Dr. Claudia Derichs, Prof. Dr. Manja Stephan-Emmrich and Dr. Faiza Muhammad Din—all at IAAW, HU Berlin—report on their workshop **Religious Knowledge, Women and Muslim Professionalism** held between the 26th and the 27th of August 2021.

The report is downloadable from [here](#).

- The interdisciplinary group **Southeast Asian Studies at Freiburg University** kindly invites Shaping Asia Network members to consult their regularly updated [homepage](#).

- The **South Asia Regional Working Group of the Deutsche Gesellschafts für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)** has elected a new spokesperson—**Dr. Philipp Zehmisch** (Universität Heidelberg)—and two second spokespersons—**Dr. Markus Schleiter** (Universität Münster) and **Dr. Éva-Rozália Hölzle** (Bielefeld University).

The Working Group invites all those who are interested to join the association. Also, non DGSKA members can join the group!

If you are interested to join the group, please write an email to philipp.zehmisch@sai.uni-heidelberg.de.

Publications

- Alpermann, Björn. 2021. *Xinjiang - China und die Uiguren*. Würzburg: Würzburg University Press. <https://doi.org/10.25972/WUP-978-3-95826-163-1>.

- Lin, Jake, and Minh T. N. Nguyen. 2021. "The Cycle of Commodification: Migrant Labour, Welfare, and the Market in Global China and Vietnam." *Global Public Policy and Governance* 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43508-021-00021-y>.

- Pierobon, Chiara, Becker, Nora, M.A., and Steve Schlegel, eds. 2021. *Central Asia after Three Decades of Independence: Politics and Societies between Stability and Transformation*. Baden-Baden: Nomos. <https://doi.org/10.5771/9783748924845>.
- Siriwardane-de Zoysa, Rapti., and Epifania Amoo-Adare. 2021. "The Bi-Polar Waterfront: Paradoxes of Shoreline Placemaking in Contemporary Accra and Colombo." In *Global Im-Possibilities: Exploring the Paradoxes of Just Sustainabilities*, edited by Phoebe Godfrey and Mary Buchanan, 69–88. London: Zed Books. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5040/9781350236844.ch-004>.
- Wei, Lan, and Minh T.N. Nguyen. 2021. "Playing the Edge Ball: The Politics of Transgression in Land Development in Southern China." *Focaal* 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.3167/fcl.2021.011104>.
- Wilcox, Phill, Jonathan Rigg, and Minh T.N. Nguyen. 2021. "Rural Life in Late Socialism." *European Journal of East Asian Studies* 20 (1): 7–25. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15700615-20211009>.
- Wilcox, Phill. 2021. *Heritage and the Making of Political Legitimacy in Laos*. Amsdetram: Amsterdam University Press. <https://doi.org/10.5117/9789463727020>.
- Yea, Sallie, and Wayne Palmer. 2021. "Why is it so Difficult to Stamp Out Seafood Slavery? There is Little Justice, even in Court." *The Conversation* January 28, 2021. <https://theconversation.com/why-is-it-so-difficult-to-stamp-out-seafood-slavery-there-is-little-justice-even-in-court-152179>.

For those who are unfamiliar with the initiative:

The **Shaping Asia** network aims to bring together scholars from the Humanities and Social Sciences. It acts as a platform for trans- and interdisciplinary knowledge production among researchers working in Asia.

Methodologically, the network emphasizes three main lines of inquiry:

- Connectivities** Understand inter- and multicultural formations, their interrelations and how connections transform what is connected.
- Comparisons** See how difference and sameness are put into relation at different scales, questioning what would otherwise seem specific.
- Collaborations** Facilitate multi-sited and multi-perspective knowledge production through scholarly cooperation and exchange.

While Shaping Asia is inclusive, it doesn't work toward capturing the entirety of Asian cultures and societies. Instead, it adopts a framework within which research conducted in specific sites, on specific topics, and by specific disciplines can be placed on a broader basis. Consequently, the network seeks to grasp how Asia is shaped and has shaped the world at different points in history. It challenges disciplinary, national, and regional boundaries as well as cultural containers.

Contact:

Related to the network please contact: [Dr. Éva-Rozália Hölzle](#)

Related to the website shapingasia.net please contact: [Anass Khayati](#)